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**Arnold Schwarzenegger
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OCEAN SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS CALIFORNIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE ON COASTAL ISSUES

California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman and Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Terry Tamminen today convened an Ocean Summit in Sacramento that is the first step in a process designed to deliver an effective strategy to address coastal pollution and ocean protection. The forum will feature national experts on ocean and coastal issues who will advise Governor Schwarzenegger developing a response to the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Bill Ruckelshaus, Member, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Leon Panetta, Chairman, Pew Oceans Commission are among those participating in this effort.

"Secretary Tamminen and I convened a 'California Ocean Summit' to hear from experts from industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations to advise Governor Schwarzenegger on creative solutions," said Secretary Chrisman. "This is a first step in mobilizing California's world class scientific resources and to create public-private partnerships that will guide a renewed commitment to effectively protect our coast and vital oceanic resources."

"California is known for its beaches and magnificent 1,100 mile long coastline more than any other single feature. Tourism contributes \$75 billion to California's economy, and employs over 1 million Californians," said Secretary Tamminen. "Our coastal waters are in trouble due to pollution, coastal development, habitat destruction and overfishing. The need for action is clear."

"The U.S. Oceans Commission Report is a call to action at the local, state and federal levels. Protecting our ocean and coastal resources is a priority," said Secretary Chrisman. "Governor Schwarzenegger has directed Secretary Tamminen and I to develop solutions that ensure California's economic and environmental leadership by addressing the critical issues facing our coast and oceans and to coordinate state ocean protection activities, including specific recommendations that will be offered to federal policymakers."

The report released for a 30 day review by the nation's governors identifies the following key points, among others that oceans and coasts are major contributors to the U.S. economy; that despite progress, ocean and coastal resources are in trouble; and that current institutions are outdated and incompatible with our new understanding of complex ecosystems. This call to action in the draft report is consistent with the general findings of the independent Pew Oceans Commission report issued last year that called national attention to the fact that our oceans are in crisis.

Audio & Video Broadcast: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>

For additional information: <http://www.resources.ca.gov/ocean/Summit04/>

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